

Ms. Meagher.

Readers Note

This is a next to last draft. The final one corrected spelling and typos.

This is for private information only and not for public information at all.

The state of Wisconsin is the controller.

Writing an historical account of a violent and emotion laden contemporary event presents several difficult problems, some of which can not be solved. The November 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy is such an event. Scholars of these crises are faced initially with the task of gathering the widely scattered evidence, then they must analyse it, and finally they must write an account in lucid form for the scholarly community and for the public whose end they ultimately serve. Their role in a social crisis is no different from their role at any other time. In fact, they are provided with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the practical use of scholarship.

Obtaining a solid base in the facts requires careful attention to the types of evidentiary materials immediately available and an awareness that many will be gotten from federal, state, and local agencies who always leave an imprint upon them. When there is a possibility of foreign intrigue in the crisis, as in the John F. Kennedy assassination, the pressure for knowledge of its basic outline increases. The emotional pull to proceed hastily with the first batch of documents available is difficult to withstand. Often the immediate picture of

events is severely distorted for the evidence becomes public in such an erratic manner that some facts come to be known in detail while other important ones remain obscured, thus leaving hardly anything upon which to rely as an evidentiary base. In the investigation of John F. Kennedy's death, background on the alleged assassin, Lee H. Oswald, was known in great detail from federal files almost immediately after the event. Information on Oswald's murderer, Jack Ruby, remains scanty and murky to this day.¹

In addition to an irregular appearance, much of the documentary evidence necessary to clarify violent events originates from faceless institutional sources not easily accessible to most scholars for study, leaving them more or less at the mercy of these bodies. Historians cannot push into the archives of busy agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency or the Federal Bureau of Investigation to poke around for material. Nor can historians question the agents who typed documents that loom central to the subject under study. Both critics and supporters of the official study of the Dallas tragedy have asked why federal security agents were not covering the buildings overlooking the assassination site. According to many informed persons this is a most unusual lapse in security arrangements. Historians, though, will probably never know what precisely happened because the answer must be sought within the operating procedures and methods of complex federal agencies. Possibly there is a logical reason for this fatal error, but historians whose social purpose is the maintenance of truth almost by definition are, and indeed

must be, eternal skeptics of evidence whose origin can not be probed.

The intense public clamor for information frequently leads public and private sources to supply an overwhelming amount of eccentric facts that appeal to the emotional mind but are not documents that can be used to build a clear and distinct picture of the event. Their existence requires perusal before they can be properly classified and the main investigation can be resumed. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation supplied the Warren Commission staff with Jack Ruby's mother's dental chart, L. H. Oswald's grade school attendance sheets, and other impressive irrelevancies, but not the spectrographic analyses of the bullets and the data upon which they were made. The tangential and irrelevant items stuff the federal archives; the analyses and data prove or disprove a conspiracy and, to the scholar, are essential facts.

Further, as investigators assemble data they encounter what are apparently contradictions of fact, but because of destruction of evidence they have absolutely no way to check on authenticity. The allegation by critics that a shot went through President Kennedy's limousine windshield from the front, thus proving a conspiracy, can never be checked since the car was not preserved intact. In the stress of the moment it was flown immediately to Detroit to be cleaned and renovated.³

A third problem is the handling of documentary evidence that often is related to rank charges and sensational revelations. Historians have the difficult job of approaching it with a detached serenity born of perspective which is required in order

to judge the facts properly. Historians, at the same time, have long been aware that federal inquiries into American crises have been subjected to emotional truth-twisting circumstances, and the appearance of such material in the documents surrounding the John F. Kennedy murder is not unusual. Examples of similar instances include the probe into the conspiracy that murdered Abraham Lincoln and the recent Senate hearings on the Tonkin Gulf Resolution that sustained the Vietnam War.

Blatant charges have been made by several investigators of the Dallas tragedy that high government figures were indirectly linked to the president's death. Spectacular charges are hard to evaluate, almost requiring inside knowledge. Scholars have been exposed to similar claims delivered in the white heat of emotion and know the necessity of calm examination of the merits of the documents. These include the treason charge levied against Daniel Boone, the suspicion roused against Alexander Hamilton's connections with Great Britain, and the charges of pro-Hun thrown against Robert M. LaFollette during World War I. In Boone's case the accusation was apparently not true,³ in Hamilton's case the charges were true,⁴ and in "Battle Bob's" case they were outrageously and deliberately false slurs.⁵

Students also confront the possibility of finding fraudulent documents among the evidence they have to use. The most complex analysis is needed before venturing to use some of the critical evidence in an emotionally charged incident. Forgeries are fairly common in history and tend to appear at critical moments during a social crisis. Recent examples from European history

include the Czarist, French, and Nazis' use of the forged
Protocols of the Elders of Zion against the Jews and Freemasons
 and the British right wing manufacture of the Zinoviev letter.
 In America the Whalen forgeries and the possibility of a faked
 typewriter in the Alger Hiss case stand out. Critics of the
 Warren Commission findings allege the existence of several faked
 facts. These include the possibility of the entire L. H. Oswald
 evidence linking him to the actual shooting being false and
 the third bullet identified as Commission Exhibit 399, of the
 three the Warren Commission alleged L. H. Oswald fired, being
 planted in the hospital.

The handling of what appears to be minor pieces of evidence
 that stand contrary to the overwhelming mass of facts is critical.
 A fact must stand in relation to the rest of the facts and can
 not be ignored because of its refusal to do so and in spite of
 one's fervent desire that it stand apart. At this juncture the
 influence of the theory of relativity on a scholar probing into
 a crisis can be particularly harmful. A central tenant of
 relativity holds that all facts are separate and distinct from
 each other and are entities in and of themselves. Although there
 are many additional points to the relativity position this
 particular one presents a fragmented, or atomised, world in
 which relations do not exist between objects and by definition
 must preclude the search for them. That one fact can be key
 to an entire tragedy not withstanding convincing but only circum-
 stantial evidence is amply demonstrated from the historical record
 as witness the bordereau paper in the French Dreyfus Affair where
 one fact became ultimately the fulcrum for an entire conspiracy.

Many documents appear at an initial stage to be simple statements, the bricks to reconstruct the event, but later turn out to be complex. The historical record abounds with instances of this type, like Abraham Lincoln's purported Wadsworth's letter espousing equality of the races.¹³ In the documentary base built up through the inquiry into John F. Kennedy's murder numerous pieces of evidence appeared as obvious and simple detail but later proved to be extremely complicated, requiring elaborate analysis before being used. This would include accounts of the transit of L. H. Oswald from the sixth to the first floor of the Texas School Book Depository.¹⁴

Another problem is presenting the conclusions of the study when they run counter to the popular and official versions of what happened. Those studying the Kennedy murder are aware of the difficulties scholars faced in previous years with similar issues and realize they must be able to maintain an objective calm both when hunting a publisher and later when waiting for reviews of their work. Between 1917 and 1920 the revisionist historians who explained that the European war developed partly out of tensions created by allied pressure upon the expanding German nation and not solely in unprovoked German militarism came under heavy censure by their colleagues that did not abate in intensity until the late 1920s.¹⁵ The publication of German and Russian documents revealing these reasons to have been a factor leading to the war helped dispel the criticism. The struggle of the group of historians associated with the theory that American civilian and military officials deliberately set up the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in order to take America into war to publish their works has probably never been equalled

in emotional intensity. The lack of complete documentary sources played a major role in the swirling controversy. The anti-conspiracy school of historians silenced the conspiracy school in a seldom recalled bitter struggle, frequently using shoddy methods that displayed a lapse in academic objectivity. ¹⁶

The question of a conspiracy lurking behind an event of key national importance is a serious one commonly encountered in a crisis. Its constant appearance in the writings critical of the Warren Commission findings is not an unusual historical phenomenon, but it is one that is as difficult to answer as it is serious in its implications. A conspiracy means that several persons planned and perpetrated or attempted to perpetrate an unlawful act. European, American, and Wisconsin history contain well documented instances. European conspiracies are the Dreyfus Affair and the murder of Leon Trotsky in Mexico by Soviet agents. ¹⁷
 In America some are the Constitutional Convention of 1789, ¹⁸
 the Ku Klux Klan of the 1860s, ¹⁹ the night riders of Kentucky, ²⁰
 1900-1910, ²¹ the American Protective League during World War I, and the many associated with the plundering and destruction of the Indian tribes of Oklahoma. ²² In Wisconsin examples are the 1856 bribing of almost all the members of the Wisconsin government by business interests ²³ and the post Civil War scheme of timber interests to take the Stockbridge Indian reservation. ²⁴

Throughout American history numerous claims of the existence of a conspiracy have been proven to be utterly false. Historians have had to contend with these false conspiracies and sometimes have had a difficult time refuting them. Examples would be the

false claims that Abraham Lincoln conspired to cause the outbreak of the Civil War,²⁵ that the railroad workers who struck²⁶ in 1894 were in conspiracy against democratic government,²⁷ that radicals were conspiring in 1919 to take over the country, and that the Cold War emerged out of the International Soviet Conspiracy.²⁸ These and so many other false conspiracy scares suddenly appear during crises in American life and often sweep public opinion and federal officials into reactionary stances so severe at times that national life is twisted with tension and bitterness and fear.

The terrible impact of the many false conspiracy charges is one of two principal reasons apparently accounting for scholarly reluctance to tackle contemporary emotion charged and violent events such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This is especially true of President Kennedy's death since the murder has been proclaimed the work of a lone psychologically disturbed itinerant janitor. It is,^{however,} precisely in the realm of controversial social problems that historical methods in the hands of scholars ought to perform better than any other method.

The second reason is the strong acceptance of the theory of relativity among the majority of American historians which holds that a current event ought to be examined forty years or more after its occurrence, when its outline will have become distinct and clear. Only then will the manuscript sources be suitably stored and properly arranged for work. The event can then be seen through the critical eye of a broad perspective and the inhibiting emotions of the present will have faded

sufficiently to permit objective scholarly research. Such considerations presumably ^{help} account for the failure of professional scholars acting under scholarly conditions to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Historically, the difficulty in using relativism is that the facts are never all obtained and events one thousand years old are still unclear and they are still being researched. The theory serves as a built-in permanent functional disability. It is undergoing very effective criticism. ²⁹ Like so many other theories such as evolution, pragmatism, and psychic idealism that have periodically emerged to dominate the doctrinaire approaches to historical inquiry and have then fallen into disuse, relativity also appears to have entered the stage where it too will be abandoned. Its present sway is regrettable since the study of the assassination provides an opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the scholarly abilities developed by the historical profession to the public good.

As a consequence of the dominance among historians of these two factors the investigation of the documentary evidence and the several speculations which flowed from such activity have given us a rather unique literature, as voluminous as its quality is mixed. Some produced outright fiction, others suffused modest scholarly techniques with distorting emotions, and a few reached conclusions through careful evaluation of the evidence and by tedious effort of examining details and should be recommended to scholars everywhere.

This review will examine the articles and books that reflect objective procedures and will attempt to provide some rudimentary assessment of their conclusions. In passing, a few works of the opposite nature that have achieved popular success and have found their way in multiple copies on the shelves of our public libraries will be noted. Five authors stand out as the more publicly known of the many writers; a brief sketch of their background follows.

The conservative columnist Jim Bishop has long specialized in writing about popular subjects. His The Day Kennedy was Shot is one of the best sellers on the assassination. It is also one of the most error laden and misinformed volumes. Bishop approached his study by clipping and pasting all the evidence found in the 26 volumes of testimony and exhibits of the Warren Commission into scrap books arranged chronologically and then wrote his story from this, supplemented with interviews of key witnesses such as several with President Lyndon Johnson. Having blindly taken as his working base the official findings of the Warren Commission, he proceeds to use history to defend them. His basic fallacy is the unquestioning use of documents and testimony without even a suspicion that many are complex and full of contradictions.

Mark Lane is a firey New York attorney who early questioned the official version of the Kennedy assassination. With his legal background it is perhaps understandable why he would select as his approach to the investigation a criticism of the Warren Commission, its evidence, and conclusion. He analyses the witness testimony and some of the physical evidence and concludes

that the Commission rendered a hasty and improper judgment. Having basically restricted his study to the Warren Commission evidence and procedures and having reached the conclusion of its failure, Lane had two choices: either find the vast institutional framework of the law a failure or find a person in it who failed. He chose Chief Justice Earl Warren as a whipping boy but failed utterly to support the accusation with evidence. His intense concentration on the legal framework and procedures overlooked a third area for criticism, the investigative federal agencies upon whom the Commission had to rely and whose slipshod methods and clumsy procedures merited discussion.

Harold Weisberg is a private citizen with experience as an investigative reporter in the 1930s probing the activities of American fascist groups. He also served as an intelligence officer during World War II. He has done massive research on the Kennedy assassination and is one of the most knowledgeable individuals on it. A tireless worker, he has been ignored by the academic and general media reviewers. Many balk at reading books that have been privately printed and whose conclusions are forthrightly used as titles. They have erred because his efforts are excellent examples of document analysis and testimony scrutiny. With careful procedure a document is vetted; he uncovers flaws, errors, conflicts with other documents, and sometimes deliberate misstatements of facts. In no other source can one gain an understanding of the method by which the evidence emerged for the Warren Commission staff to write the Report's conclusion. Weisberg attributes motive to no one. He writes, "The whitewashing was done on the working level, not

the level of policy. Policy was wrong and was inhibited. It was safer to be for sin and against motherhood than to deny the successful Communist scare of the Dallas police." ³⁰ The majority of public officials had declared Oswald to be the lone mad sniper before the investigation got underway. Weisberg provides scores of instances where investigators for the Commission tended to restrict their research to line up with the principles touted on the screen by local and federal officials.

Weisberg's weaknesses as an author are, firstly, he does not consistently organize his material along conventional lines. He analyses a document to support an argument in one chapter and then elsewhere presents additional criticism that adds even more weight to the initial comment. This scatters the attention of readers. Secondly, he tends to employ expressive language such as "liar," "fraud," and "censor" particularly when he strikes at the arrogance of a witness.

Sylvia Meagher (pronounced Marr) is a research librarian for the United Nations. Her Accessories After the Fact is the best book on the assassination but is seldom found in public libraries. Her numerous articles and constant research has established her as one of the top authorities on the subject, but the learned journals have declined to use her excellent abilities for reviewing books on the assassination.

Penn Jones, Jr., is the editor of a weekly newspaper in a small town near Dallas, Texas. A decorated combat veteran and officer of World War II, he has published his newspaper since 1948 often in the midst of extremist attempts to stifle the paper. His resistance to censorship has earned him top national awards. An indefatigable worker, he is extremely

informed about the details of the murder and an excellent and willing guide of the Texas murder site. When analysing facts he places them in a framework of a military conspiracy operating in conjunction with right wing elements. Many of his statements and assertions of facts are not supported by reference to the evidentiary base. His conclusions are presented in the form of essays and editorials.

The annotated critical bibliography which follows is arranged into the following categories. First, the bibliographical materials are listed. It should be noted perhaps that at present there is no adequate bibliography for the study of the assassination. Second, some of the major documentary sources is briefly surveyed. A good guide would be book length. Third, a few selected articles of a critical nature or with a controversial background are included. Fourth, and the main body of the reviews, are books. Five, and last, is assigned to miscellaneous that merely suggests the type of materials available, but touches on some key items also.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Crown, James Tracy. The Kennedy Literature: A Bibliographical Essay on John F. Kennedy. New York: New York University Press, 1968.

An incomplete attempt to assemble books that is marred by a pro-Warren Commission bias.

[Fensterwald, Bernard, Jr., et al.] "Selective Bibliography on Assassination." Washington, D. C.: The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927 15th Street, N.W., 1969.

An eight page mimeographed double columned listing of books on the deaths of numerous American and world leaders compiled for committee members' use.

Sable, Martin H. A Bio-Bibliography of the Kennedy Family.

Metuchen, N. J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1969.

An excellent but incomplete guide to articles and books on all facets of the assassination and its aftermath.

Thompson, William Clifton. A Bibliography of Literature Relating to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

San Antonio: Carlton Printing Company, 1968. Revised edition with 1971 supplement printed by Jiffy Press. Distributed by W. C. Thom^Pson & Son, 731 Riverside Drive, San Antonio, Texas, 78223.

A listing of 283 entries, excluding magazine and newspaper articles. An excellent source compiled by a private citizen, it lists distributors and prices of several indispensable motion pictures and still photos by Abraham Zapruder, O. O. Nix, and others.

BASIC SOURCES

American public

[Jaworski, Leon.] Files of Evidence Connected with the Investigation of President John F. Kennedy. [n.o.: n.p., n.d.]
21 vols., in two reel microfilm edition. Washington, D. C.: Microcard Editions, 901 26th Street, N. W., [1967].

The little known files of the biased assassination investigation compiled by the rightist Attorney General of Texas that runs to about 5500 pages in 21 volumes. It contains Dallas Police radio transmissions, data on the area, plans and photos of the scenes, and so forth. The two reel microfilm edition was prepared for the Library of Congress.

Johnson, Marion M., compiler. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy." Washington, D. C.: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1970. 28 pages.

Lifton, David S., compiler. Document Addendum to the Warren Report. El Segundo, California: Sighttext Publications, 1968.

A necessary addition that contains the declassified transcripts of the proceeding of the executive sessions of the Warren Commission; CD (Commission Document) 344, transcript of a tape recording of the first interrogation of Marina Oswald, November 24; and, the Liebeler Memorandum of September 6, 1964, on "Galley proofs of Chapter IV of the Report."

Meagher, Sylvia. Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits. New York: Scarecrow Press, 1966.

Prepared by a private citizen, this is an absolutely indispensable index issued in a limited edition.

. Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1971.

Updated and slightly expanded edition now available permanently in cloth or paper covers.

U. S. Congress. Senate. Authorizing the Commission established to report upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Public Law 88-202, 88th Cong., 1st Sess., December 13, 1963.
Senate Joint Resolution 137.

U. S. [National Archives] List of Basic Source Materials . . .
Washington, D. C.: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1970. 185 pages.

The archives list the 1555 CDs (Commission Documents) and breaks each down according to the agency which prepared the report, the name of the agent doing the investigation, the subject matter of the report, and city where the investigation originated. It fails to cross reference to CEs (Commission Exhibits) and is of limited usefulness.

U. S. President. Executive Order No. 11130, "Appointing a Commission to report upon the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." Code of Federal Regulation. Title 3 The President. 1959-1963 Compilation. Washington, D. C.: Office of the Federal Register, 1964.

Executive fiat created the Warren Commission.

The order is also printed in the Warren Commission Report, p. 471.

[U. S. Warren Commission.] Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. 26 vols. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1964.

A 20,000 page, 10,400,000 word selection from the unpublished hundreds of cubic feet of evidence collected by commission staff. Commission members rarely attended the sessions. 15 volumes contain testimony by witnesses and 11 volumes are exhibits. Volume XV contains one list of names and one of exhibits. There is no subject index. Nothing is in chronological or subject order and the material appears to have been randomly selected. The volumes contain interesting information if one has the endurance to read it all. For example, on pages 799-800 of volume XVI the ineptness of the investigation is suggested by a letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the staff of the commission informing them that they can not identify one finger print found on the sixth floor of the Texas school Book Depository and that the firm renting the building refused to have all the persons in the building fingerprinted. Nothing was done. Thousands of pages in the volumes are useless, trivial, or tangential, such as the reprinting of scores of pages of emotional ultraright wing articles from the public press, and function as diversionary data. 8,000 copies of the set were printed.

[U. S. Warren Commission.] Report of the President's Commission
on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1964.

The study prepared by the clerks and staff of
the Warren Commission.

American Private.

Several private collections of documents exist that are uncatalogued. These include the substantial holdings assembled by investigators such as Penn Jones, Jr., Midlothian, Texas. The original Zapruder film is privately held; however, so many good copies of the bootleg edition are available at modest prices to make its secrecy useless. The film Rush to Judgment by Mark Lane, distributed by Rogosin of New York, is an excellent and clear presentation of the critic's view. It includes eyewitness testimony and a visual perspective that is not obtainable any place else. There are other films.

Georgetown University Archives.

Contains the complete files of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations including its collection of books. This unique research center is open to scholars.

American Secret.

Some materials collected by the staff of the Warren Commission are held in the archives under security classification and restrictions and will be unavailable for many years. Much of the classified material, however, should never be made public since it is irrelevant and contains personal information such as the

medical records of Marina Oswald's pregnancy. Other documents, such as the x-ray data and the spectrographic analysis and data it is based upon, which are vital to any objective investigation are suppressed. They belong to the people of the United States. The very existence of suppressed documents on an officially declared non-conspiracy is the negation of the principles of a constitutional democracy and their classification is inexplicable.

ARTICLES

Belin, David. "'Truth was my only goal.'" The Texas Observer. (August 13, 1971), pp. 13-15.

A reply to Sylvia Meagher's article of the same date and in the same newspaper by the Commission lawyer whose questioning helped witness Charles Givens to change his testimony. Givens' testimony placed Oswald on the sixth floor. Meagher demonstrates how he originally placed Oswald on the first floor and then, under pressure, four months later placed Oswald on the sixth floor. Using an ancient ploy Belin ignores the specific charges levied against him by Mrs. Meagher and discusses side issues. This is one of the most error ridden and illogical articles in the assassination literature.

Cook, Fred J. "Assassination Investigations. The Irregulars Take the Field." The Nation (July 19, 1971), pp. 40-46.

A liberal journalist describes the composition, purpose, and activities of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. The CTIA is a loosely grouped, varying

number of non-academic men who come from diverse political backgrounds including right wing, left wing, center liberals, and non-alligned.

Graham, Fred P. "Doctor Inspects Kennedy X-Rays," New York Times, January 9, 1972.

In this widely hailed report on a private viewing of federal secret document^s, the New York urologist Dr. John K. Lattimer states that Oswald alone shot the president. Lattimer has succumbed to one of the most alluring enticements that an emotional national event presents to the non-academic researcher -- attempting to evaluate technical evidence beyond one's professional expertise. He also failed to relate what he calls his findings to the multitude of other equally pertinent facts. Assuming Lattimer did in fact examine x-rays and also assuming they were in fact the x-rays of President Kennedy, the x-rays in themselves do not tell who pulled the trigger. Perhaps his reliance on a devil theory of history distorted the alleged study since he has long felt Oswald to be a "modern-day, traitorous guerilla . . . working with religious-type conviction." All facts are trimmed to fit upon his distorting bed of assertions which tends to preclude objectivity.

One of Lattimer's errors relates to his description of the back wound. Since the hole in the president's shirt and coat is about six inches below the back neckline and Lattimer puts the bullet about two inches above the neckline, he must claim the Zapruder

film shows the coat "bunched up" as the president waves to the crowd in order to account for the eight inch difference. This is absolutely contrary to the fact. At the moment of impact the president was shielded from Abraham Zapruder's camera by a road sign and as he emerges (z-225) his coat is not bunched. It is further a physical impossibility for the well tailored coat to bunch eight inches and even then the overlap would require two holes in the fabric. Lattimer also alleges that the bullet entering President Kennedy's neck transited downward at so steep an angle that for a frontal shot to have caused the wound (as many critics have charged), the second assassin would have been on the car floor. But, this proves a conspiracy not the reverse, for the neck bullet (CE 399) could not then hit Governor Connally. By necessity a second assassin is required to shoot him.

The article is diversionary. It is a curious thing that the two writers, Lattimer and Belin, whose articles are the least competent, are the New York Times authorities on the assassination.

Kaplan, John. "The Assassins." The American Scholar, VIII (July, 1963), pp271-306.

An error ridden and emotionally suffused attempt by a law professor to attack critics of the Warren Commission findings who he sees as assassins of truth. Why this article would establish him, as it did, as a national authority on the Warren Commission is incomprehensible. Apparently, Kaplan worked in the Justice Department from 1957-1961.

Kaplan, John. "The Assassins." Stanford Law Review, XIX (1967), pp. 1110-1151.

The same article as above with a few errors corrected.

Lattimer, John K. "Factors in the Death of President Kennedy," Journal of the American Medical Association, vol. 198 (October 24, 1966), pp. 327-333.

An urologist's opinion upholding the Warren Commission findings that completely ignores testimony and evidence contrary to his desired argument. For example he stipulates that the defective scope on the rifle allegedly used by Oswald actually helped him hit the president by compensating for poor marksmanship. [Sic.] He produces no unbiased figures and calculations to prove this. He ignores testimony and evidence of a defective bolt, a defective trigger, an apparent absence of an ammunition clip, and a cartridge case with a dent too severe to hold a bullet.

. "Similarities in Fatal Woundings of John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald," New York State Journal of Medicine, July 1, 1966, pp. 1782-1794.

A sensationalized treatment of the two deaths that lacks accurate and complete documentation. He accepts the unfounded and outrageous view that the federal military-intelligence service killed Lincoln.

. "The Kennedy-Connally Single Bullet Theory. A Feasibility Study," International Surgery, vol. 50 (December, 1968), pp. 524-532.

A simplistic effort to show that bullet CE 399 did do what it was supposed to do: officially transit

President Kennedy's neck, zig, yaw, and zag before wounding Governor Connally five times, and smashing two bones before emerging in pristine condition. The author fails to substantiate his assertions with reference to photographs or to evidence. He claims to have obtained a secret viewing of CE 399 in the public archives and found it to be flattened "severely" on the side away from the official photographs that show it to be round. This gives him a point from which to argue and marshal "facts" to sustain the single bullet theory. However, the person who discovered the bullet on a stretcher in the Dallas hospital testified that it "rolled out" from under the stretcher equipment and pathologists and medical men who gave it a minute and exhaustive study testified that it was "without distortion." CE 399 is public; photographs of all sides can be readily obtained. In Six Seconds in Dallas by Josiah Thompson on page 45, he gives a photograph of one side of the bullet, and on page 146, he gives one of the other side, clearly distinguished by a mark made during a federal examination. It is pristine. Lattimore not only must produce the "severely flattened" bullet for public scrutiny, but also must prove that it is in fact CE 399 before his amateur attempts can be taken seriously.

Meagher, Sylvia. "After the Battle, the Book." The Minority of One, IX (June, 1967), pp25-27.

An informed critic provides an excellent and lengthy review of William Manchester's The Death of a President.

_____. "The curious testimony of Mr. Givens." The Texas Observer. (August 13, 1971), pp. 11-12.

A superb article by one of the most knowledgeable individuals working on the Kennedy assassination that gives a chronological account of the conflicting statements and testimony of Charles Givens. The Warren Commission used Givens as a key witness to Oswald being near the alleged sixth floor sniper window at about 11:45. Meagher, however, shows Givens testified to the FBI on November 22, 1963, that Oswald was on the first floor playing dominoes at 11:50. Then she traces the changes in his testimony during questioning by the Commission staff until on April 8, 1964, Givens placed Oswald on the sixth floor.

_____. "On 'Closing Doors, Not Opening them' or, The Limit of the Warren Investigation." The Minority of One, VIII (July-August, 1966), pp29-32.

An article length review of Edward J. Epstein's Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth.

_____. "Post Assassination Credibility Chasm." The Minority of One, IX (March, 1967), pp21-22.

A critical analysis of the public comments of members of the Warren Commission staff.

_____ . "A Psychiatrist's Retroactive 'Clairvoyance.'"

The Minority of One, VIII (June, 1966), pp25-27.

A long and scathing discussion of Renatus Hertogs and Lucy Freeman's The Two Assassins given by an informed critic. She is too charitable.

_____ . "Wheels with Deals: How the Kennedy

'Investigation' was Organized." The Minority of One, X (July-August, 1968), pp23-27.

The excellent, and the only, account of the Texas attorney general's investigation of the assassination that is essential reading on the background to the Warren Commission.

Rothschild, John. "Finding the Facts Bureaucrats Hide." The Washington Monthly, January, 1972, pp. 15-27.

The author summarizes the problems of using the Freedom of Information Act and includes some material on the attempts of critics to obtain secret information.

Sagatelyan, Mikhail. "Dallas. Who? How? Why?" Sputnik Monthly Digest. Translated by Monica Whyte. VII (June, 1971), pp. 111-130; (July, 1971), pp. 98-120; (August, 1971), pp. 109-130.

A Soviet journalist's speculation on the motive behind the conspiracy to kill Kennedy. Reactionary elements murdered him to halt his move to stop the Cold War. Lyndon B. Johnson allegedly participated in the assassination in order to squelch a Kennedy investigation of massive corruption in which the vice president was involved. The author draws many of the actual details of the Dallas tragedy from American critical works. There is, however, no evidence to support his allegations. There is neither fact nor document of any kind whatsoever

that in any way links President Johnson to the assassination. The charge against the president is preposterous and libelous and serves to cloud the search for an objective base.

Sprague, Richard E. "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence." Computers and Automation, XX (May, 1970), pp. 29-60.

A computer specialist lists and assigns numbers to all 510 known photographs, totaling 25,000 frames with motion pictures of the murder scene and immediate events. The Warren Commission staff examined only 26, omitting for example the photographs of a scopeless rifle being examined at the Texas School Book Depository immediately after the murder, the unarranged boxes of the alleged sniper's nest, and of several men, probably common tramps, being taken into custody by law enforcement officials in the nearby railroad yards. This is an indispensable article in spite of the minor factual errors (which have been corrected in subsequent issues of the magazine). Outside the realm of photography and the analysis of the photos, the author tends to use vague statements.

BOOKS

Bishop, Jim. The Day Kennedy was Shot. New York: Funk & Wagnall, 1968.

The most error laden and factually distorting book on the assassination. After locating one hundred instances in three chapters of major factual error, acute distortion of evidence, and omission of facts

contrary to the author's argument, this reviewer stopped counting. For example, Bishop follows the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald killed Kennedy from the sixth floor book depository's eastern window and presents several eye witnesses to sustain the assertion. He centers his narrative on Howard Brennan who stated that he saw Oswald shoot, but he also uses the testimony of Arnold Rowland and Amos Euins. Bishop omits entirely that Brennan had poor eyesight, did not wear his eyeglasses that day, contradicted his testimony, and testified to a physical impossibility, that the man stood against the window frame while shooting. With Rowland's testimony he simply omits that portion where Rowland swore to seeing on the sixth floor two men in one window, an unarmed Negro in the sniper window and the sniper in the western window. To Bishop, Euins' "man" "with a bald-spot" is "Oswald in the window." Bishop ignores photographs showing the sixth floor sniper window empty seconds before the murder and does not include comments from the report of Mr. Powell, the Army intelligence agent "trapped" in the depository when it was sealed by police. A trained observer's report might have added considerably to the credence of the narrative. There are scores of similar difficulties.

Brener, Milton E. The Garrison Case. A Study in the Abuse of Power. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1969.

An emotional criticism of Mr. Garrison that centers on his irregularities and eccentricities and his apparent abuse of office. It thereby can ignore the evidence brought out in the trial relating to the

autopsy of President Kennedy, the release of the Zapruder film, and other material.

Bringuier, Carlos. Red Friday. November 22d, 1963. Chicago: Chas. Hallberg & Company, 1969.

A disorganized and confused attempt to analyse the assassination without scholarly apparatus.

Buchanan, Thomas. Who Killed Kennedy? New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1964.

A journalist's criticism of the Warren Commission in a work that is too brief and largely speculative on the reasons behind the murder.

Chapman, Gil and Ann. Was Oswald Alone? San Diego: Publishers Export Company, Post Office Box 20127, 1967.

A brief overview given by using other critical books, but makes a major point in locating Ruby's home address -- two blocks from the scene of officer Tippett's murder.

Curry, Jesse. Personal JFK File. Dallas: Limited Collectors, 1969.

The Dallas Police Chief makes an attempt to present Dallas material. He prints the police log report of November 22 with several crucial omissions, adds three vital minutes to the time of officer J.D. Tippet's murder, and prints a picture containing evidence refuting some police testimony before the Warren Commission.

Cutler, Robert Bradley. The Flight of CE 399: Evidence of Conspiracy. Beverly, Mass.: Printed by Omni-Print, 1969.

Cutler, an architect, gives an excellent analysis of CE 399's flight path.

Cutler, Robert Bradley. Two Flightpaths: Evidence of Conspiracy.

Danvers, Mass.: Mirror Press, 1971. Distributed by Cutler Designs, 38 Union Street, Manchester, Massachusetts, 01944.

This brief volume contains a summary of his The Flight of CE 399 and provides in addition a study of the "Traverse Thoracial". Charts and drawings of the flightpaths are given and an analysis of the sixth floor windows. This is the best scholarly study done on a fragment of the Warren Commission findings and is a model for any study of a similar nature.

Epstein, Edward Jay. Counterplot. New York: The Viking Press, 1969.

Examining the ineptness of the investigation conducted by the New Orleans' District Attorney, a professor adds his own misinformation to construct a conspiracy in the D. A.'s office to prove there is no such thing as a conspiracy.

Inquest--The Warren Commission and the Establishment of the Truth. New York: The Viking Press, 1966.

A good criticism of the Warren Commission findings done concisely. He utilized the files of one segment of the Commission staff; therefore, his argument is deflected away from vital areas.

Flammonde, Paris. The Kennedy Conspiracy: An Uncommissioned Report on the Jim Garrison Investigation. New York: Meredith Press, 1969.

A free lance writer provides a sympathetic appraisal of the New Orleans inquiry.

Ford, Gerald R. and Stiles, John R. Portrait of the Assassin.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1965.

Misnamed, this volume is really a portrait of Ford, a Commission member.

Fox, Sylvan. The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination. New York: Award Books, 1965.

A reporter gives an informed and brief critical statement.

Garrison, Jim. A Heritage of Stone. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1970.

The New Orleans' District Attorney focuses on the Dallas assassination, excluding discussion of his controversial trial. Profoundly informed and based on extensive investigation, the attorney's book provides strong but not conclusive evidence of a conspiracy. He presents his explanation within a political framework of military-business efforts silencing a critic of the cold war expansion into South East Asia. This requires him to argue that President Kennedy was anti-expansion and radical. The framework, also, distorts his insight into the documents, requiring him at times to force connections between facts. The documentary evidence, the testimony of witnesses, and the analysis of physical material as presented simply are not sufficient to carry his argument of a political conspiracy aided and abetted by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gershenson, Alvin. Kennedy and Big Business. Beverly Hills, California: Book Company of America, 1964.

Big business killed the president. He provides no evidence just jumbled theory.

Goldberg, Arthur. Conspiracy Interpretations of the Assassination of President Kennedy: International and Domestic.

University of California Security Studies Project,
Security Studies Paper Number 16, Los Angeles:
University of California, 1968.

An Air Force historian and member of the Commission staff, the author summarizes his study of the critical literature but does not utilize footnotes or bibliography. In his concluding remarks he first employs Freud to exorcise what he calls the demonologists who have criticized the conclusion of the Report and includes the following sentence denying a conspiracy:

"There is no evidence, there are no eyewitnesses, no one talked or betrayed the conspiracy." (p. 29)

This reviewer feels Dr. Goldberg's argument is not valid.

The conspiracy is a fact based on the following evidence from the public documents:

1. The physical evidence seems incontrovertible, especially bullet CE 399 and the autopsy reports.
2. No evidence links Oswald to the actual shooting. This includes the entire sequence of events, the curtain rod, the sixth floor position, and the transit to the first floor.

Other considerations to bolster the statement, yet not conclusive by themselves, are:

3. The evidence brought out in the New Orleans trial by Garrison as reported verbatim in the New Orleans press.

4. Eyewitnesses and photographs of the scene in Dallas.

5. The Zapruder film.

This reviewer found no evidence in these initial volumes of criticism of the Warren Commission findings that would link the conspiracy to the institutional acts of the military, business, or intelligence bodies of American, French, or Russian background. None links it to a left wing group.

Hepburn, James. [Pseudonym.] Farewell America. Vaduz, Liechtenstein: Frontiers Company, 1968.

The most curious work on the assassination. Published in Liechtenstein, printed in Belgium, and distributed in Canada, the book is rare in the United States but available in Europe apparently in several languages. The bulk of its 387 pages develops the alleged motives for the assassination of the president by ultra-right wing elements in the United States. According to the author or authors, most major reactionary American forces were involved, but the principal one was the Texas oil interests. About three pages touch on the murder itself with a map showing the location of the alleged assassins and the trajectory of the several bullets. Many statements are not supported by known facts, e. g. the map is contrary in some spots to known and established fact. Also, the linking of the murder to Texas oil interests and the charge that Dallas police were implicated are absolutely without any base in fact and are libelous. The sources used are allegedly taken from foreign intelligence files that are impossible to locate. This should more properly be classified as fiction.

Hertogs, Renatus and Freeman, Lucy. The Two Assassins. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1965.

A psychological analysis of Ruby and Oswald by two professors that belongs in the Frank L. Baum category of assassination literature.

Kirkwood, James. American Grotesque. An Account of the Clay Shaw-Jim Garrison Affair in the City of New Orleans. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1970.

An emotional journalistic criticism of Garrison that contains much interesting information, but does not relate the Garrison evidence to the Dallas tragedy.

Joesten, Joachim. The Case Against Lyndon B. Johnson in the Assassination of President Kennedy. Munich, Germany: Selbstverlag, 1968-69. 2 vol.

A journalist speculates about the role of President Johnson.

_____. The Case Against the Kennedy Clan. Munich, Germany: Selbstverlag, 1967.

This is a poor book based on idle rumours.

_____. The Dark Side of Lyndon Baines Johnson. London: Dawnay Ltd., 1968.

He popularizes information on Johnson's Texas background and spices it with speculation.

_____. The Garrison Inquiry: Truth & Consequences. London: Dawnay, 1967.

A journalist speculates on the background on the inquiry.

_____. How Kennedy was Killed: The Full Appalling Story. London: Dawnay, 1968.

This is a summary of other works and does not provide the answer it claims.

_____ . Marina Oswald. London: Dawnay, 1967.

This is heavily speculative.

_____ . Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy? New York: Marzani & Munsell, 1964.

His first and best book that is full of information all twisted by an assumption of a right wing plot.

_____ . Oswald: The Truth. London: Dawnay, 1967.

A summary of rumours about Oswald.

James, Rosemary, and Wardlaw, Jack. Plot or Politics? The Garrison Case and Its Cast. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing House, 1967.

They assemble factual background material.

Jones, Penn, Jr. Forgive My Grief. 3 vols. Midlothian, Texas: Midlothian Mirror, 1966-1969.

Three slim volumes of essays and analysis of witness testimony before the Commission drawn from intensive research. Steeped in the political climate of his Texas homeland, Jones provides illuminating insights, e.g. the night of the murder some wealthy Texans held parties to celebrate the death of the president. He also delves extensively into President Johnson's economic and political background, establishing myriad relationships between Kennedy's successor and Texas reactionaries. The basic weakness is the tendency when reaching conclusions upon the national background to the murder to omit references to evidence that would provide for a wider acceptance of his argument.

Lane, Mark. A Citizen's Dissent. Mark Lane Replies. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968.

An attorney replies to those who criticized his Rush to Judgment volume on the assassination. The first portion, containing several pages on the problems of presenting studies on the Kennedy assassination to the public, is awkward to use and detracts from the book. Also, he neglects to document some facts presented in this segment such as the British Broadcasting Company's position during his London tour and thus/^{they}can not be considered in the same category as the information in the excellent last three quarters of the book. One substantial segment examines the role played by Walter Cronkite and the Columbia Broadcasting System during a four hour television review of the Warren Commission's conclusions. By superb use of documentary evidence Lane shows that Cronkite and CBS presented views considerably at variance with known facts and proves that one must be fully conversant with the factual base for the study of the assassination before venturing to become a public authority upon the validity of the one sniper theory.

. Rush to Judgment. A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippitt and Lee Harvey Oswald. With an introduction by Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966.

The first major study to receive widespread publicity, it established a basis in the evidence for refusing to accept the conclusion of the Warren Commission.

Unfortunately, Lane places a second thesis alongside the first and finds Chief Justice Earl Warren to be responsible for the inquiry's failure. The first thesis is sustained by excellent scholarly analysis; the second is not supported from the evidence. In addition to the repugnancy of the preposterous accusation against Warren, the tangential element functions to shift the focus of the reader away from the monumental ineptness of the federal investigative agencies to a defense of the Chief Justice.

Lawrence, Lincoln. [Pseudonym.] Were We Controlled? New Hyde, Park, N. Y.: University Books, 1967.

In a strictly speculative book the author argues the stock market was manipulated heavily before and after the assassination. No figures and statistics are given and a bazaar element of R.H.I.C. or Radio-Hypnotic Intracerebral Control is added.

Lewis, Richard Warren, and Schiller, Lawrence. The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report: the Endless Paradox. New York: Dell Publishing Company, 1967.

Two journalists make a superficial and fanciful effort to uphold the efforts of the Warren Commission by attacking those who criticized its findings. Much of the rambling thin volume lacks documentation or even a grasp of the subject.

Manchester, William. The Death of a President. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

A book that represents a commercial point of view, not the evidence.

Marcus, Raymond. The Bastard Bullet: A Search for Legitimacy for Commission Exhibit 399. With an introduction by Mark Lane. Los Angeles: Rendell Publications, 1966.

A thin volume, it is an excellent scholarly study of a single aspect of the investigation of the Warren Commission.

Matteo, Pat. This Captive Land. 44 Elinor Place, Yonkers, N. Y.: Privately printed, 1968.

This unfathomable book belongs in a Frank L. Baum category of assassination literature.

Meagher, Sylvia. Accessories After the Fact. The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report. With an introduction by Leo Sauvage. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967.

This is the most scholarly investigation of the assassination and the only volume that fulfills the demands of objectivity in every detail. Her method is her strength. Each topic is treated separately. Typically she gives the conclusion from the Report, followed by the evidence and testimony of all witnesses with reference to each aspect of the problem. Finally she appraises the facts on the documentary evidence as given by the Commission. The Commission, she concludes, did not prove Oswald killed John F. Kennedy and the assassins are still free. She states that a new investigation by researchers independent of the government is required.

Morin, Relman. Assassination: The Death of President John F. Kennedy. New York: The New American Library, 1968.

It lacks even the rudimentary framework for a scholarly book.

20

Newman, Alfred. The Assassination of John F. Kennedy. The Reasons Why. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1970.

A strong supporter of the Warren Commission findings, Newman expends his energies describing the mental states of the dead Oswald by inferences from conveniently kept old diaries, stray snapshots, used order blanks, and speeches of Fidel Castro printed in various leftish journals. He then imposes motives on Oswald's actions. It is an impressive effort but falls on the same logical grounds as did the Medieval scholastic argument on how to count angels on the head of a pin. Newman assumes his device of mental states is valid and further that it gives expression to reality. In addition, he assumes Oswald was a Marxist, albeit slightly mad. All facts subsequently encountered in his investigations are placed upon this Procrustes bed of assumptions and brushed aside if they do not fit. He thus ignores all physical facts, logical problems of photographic analysis, and the entire body of critical literature.

Oswald, Robert. Lee: A Portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald. New York: Coward, 1967.

His printed remarks differ considerably from his initial comments published in the public press.

Popkin, Richard H. The Second Oswald. With an introduction by Murray Kempton. New York: Avon Library - New York Review Book, 1966.

This is a good critical treatment of the probability of a fake Oswald who functioned to divert investigators. It is too brief.

Roberts, Charles. The Truth About the Assassination. With a for^eword by Pierre Salinger. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1967.

A 118 page effort to uphold the findings of the Warren Commission by the repugnant method of attacking the character and motives of those who wrote against the official conclusion. It is full of errors, lacks documentation, uses emotional language, and completely fails to uphold the promise given in its title. Why Salinger would be informed about the assassination evidence is not revealed.

Smith, Bill [William R.] Assassination by Consensus: The Story behind the Kennedy Assassination. Washington, D. C.: L'Avant Garde Books, 1966.

A rambling, footnote-free volume on "behavior engineering" that makes no contribution whatsoever.

A Hog Story from the Aftermire of the Kennedy Assassination. Washinton, D. C.: L'Avant Garde Books, 1968.

Apparently, he argues that insiders on the alleged right wing conspiracy played the stockmarket and hog market by short sales and made a fortune. It is impossible to follow.

Sauvage, Léó. The Oswald Affair. An Examination of the Contradictions and Omissions of the Warren Report. Cleveland: World Publishing Company, 1966.

A journalist disputes the Warren Commission findings and does what the title states but in a rather superficial way.

Sparrow, John. After the Assassination. A Positive Appraisal of the Warren Report. New York: Chilmark Press, 1967.

This thin volume by a renowned professor proves that academic qualifications are no substitute for knowledge of the documents.

Thomson, George C. The Quest for Truth; a Quizzical Look at the Warren Report; or, How President Kennedy Really was Assassinated. Glendale, Calif.: G. C. Thomson Engineering Co., 1964.

A brief critical examination of the physical evidence, it is a good early effort but marred by a political bias.

Thompson, Josiah. Six Seconds in Dallas. A Micro-Study of the Kennedy Assassination. [New York:] Bernard Geis Associates, 1967.

A study of the witnesses and physical evidence used by the Warren Commission, the shots, shell casings, bullet fragments, and so forth, it concludes at least three gunmen participated in the murder. The argument is carefully reasoned, the evidence assessed with all the detachment of a first rate scholar, and the conclusion follows closely with the facts as he presents them. Perhaps the book's most important point for future research is the "Dealey Plaza Chart: Location of Witnesses" where he numbers, names, locates, and gives information on their testimony. Further references when applicable are provided on the 268 witnesses.

Weisberg, Harold. Oswald in New Orleans. Case of Conspiracy with the C.I.A. Foreward by Jim Garrison. New York: Canyon Books, 1967.

An informative and exhaustive treatment of the background to the New Orleans investigation, it is told from the perspective of its relationship to the Warren Commission's investigation.

. Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report. Route 7, Hyattstown, Md.: Harold Weisberg, 1965.

This is the first book which establishes a basis in fact for rejecting the conclusions of the Warren Commission. It was not publicized.

. Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Cover-up. Route 7, Hyattstown, Md.: Harold Weisberg, 1966.

He examines the methods used by the federal investigative agencies to assemble, analyse, and present the evidence they were charged with procuring. He demonstrates with exhaustive detail the procedures used to clip photographs, misprint documents, and omit key portions of the evidence to provide the conclusion sought -- a lone assassin. The reproduction of many unpublished documents is an added feature.

. Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures. Route 7, Hyattstown, Md.: Harold Weisberg, 1967.

The photographs used to support the charge of a lone assassin are examined and shown to have been handled with a lack of objective standards. The 140 pages of documents photographically reproduced alone make the volume a necessary addition to the critical literature.

White, Stephen. Should We Now Believe the Warren Report?

Preface by Walter Cronkite. New York: Macmillan Company, 1968.

He proves the answer is no. This contains the error laced text of the CBS documentary (which is commented upon above under Mark Lane's Citizen's Dissent).

MISCELLANEOUS

Charts and maps.

Spatial Chart of the Northern Half of Dealey Plaza. Manchester, Massachusetts: Cutler Designs, 38 Union Street, 1970.

A superb architectural drawing of the assassination site, it is absolutely necessary for checking, measuring, and evaluating information concerning the physical evidence. The maps and charts of the Warren Commission study are too inaccurate for good research.

Newsletters and newspapers.

CTIA Newsletter. Volume 1, number 1, January, 1971. Quarterly.

From their office at 927 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., the Committee to Investigate Assassinations issues this information sheet to all members and interested parties. It summarizes their legal cases, provides a progress report on their fight to have pertinent evidence released, and gives notices of books and other items of general information.

Truth Letter. Volume 1, number 1, September 15, 1968. Bi-weekly.

This is, apparently, published by Joachim Joesten from his home in New York. The reviewer has only seen one issue and cannot judge it.

Midlothian Mirror. 1881. Weekly.

Editor Penn Jones, Jr., began printing critical information immediately after the assassination. Much of his work is published in the three volumes of Forgive My Grief. The issue of August 13, 1970, reprints all his work since volume III; one must consult his weekly editions since then for his evaluation of new evidence. He is extremely well informed.

Computers and Automation. 1950. Monthly.

Beginning in 1970, almost every issue carries a critical article on the assassination. While some of them are not of the best quality, many are excellent and a few are among the best available.

Legal Cases.

Brief for Plaintiff-Appellant and Joint Appendix. In the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. No. 71-1026. Harold Weisberg v U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D. C. : Byron S. Printing, 1971.

No. 71-1026, Brief for the Appellee. Typescript.

Reply Brief for Plaintiff-Appellant. Typescript.

These three related documents involve the question of freedom of information. Weisberg requests to examine the absolutely key evidence of spectrographic

analyses reports and the raw data upon which the reports were based, bullets, fragments of bullets, and objects such as garments and curbstones said to have been struck by bullets. His request has been denied in court on the curious grounds of national interest. Written refusals state that the evidence is part of an "investigative file compiled for law enforcement purposes". Since all persons involved are dead, this ground is equally curious. If the Warren Commission findings are valid and if the spectrographic tests were completely and properly performed, such tests should substantiate the Commission findings.

Cross References.

[Committee to Investigate Assassinations.] [Cross List Reference for Commission Exhibits and Commission Documents.]
Typescript.

A privately prepared cross reference to the archives' Warren Commission holdings, it is necessary in order to use them.

1

Information on Lee H. Oswald was known almost immediately, including photographs in dress suits, marriage details, history of his trips to Russia and New Orleans. The recently declassified CD 355 (Commission Documents) in the national archives reveal that one thousand persons were interviewed concerning their acquaintance with or knowledge or possible knowledge of Jack Ruby. Ruby's letters written in jail have never been collected. Penn Jones, Jr., Midlothian, Texas, owns one.

2

Josiah Thompson, Six Seconds in Dallas. A Micro-Study of the Kennedy Assassination (n. c.: Bernard Geis Associates, 1967), pp. 113-114.

3

The reference is to Boone's trial for alleged betrayal of Kentucky to the Shawnee Indians. He was acquitted. Cf. Reuben Gold Thwaites, Daniel Boone (New York: D. Appleton, 1902), pp. 166-169. In the 1780s Boone did take gold from Spain to repudiate the United States.

4

Julian P. Boyd, Number 7. Alexander Hamilton's Secret Attempts to Control American Foreign Policy with supporting documents (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964).

5

Belle Case and Fola LaFollette, Robert M. LaFollette, June 14, 1855-June 18, 1925 (New York: Macmillan, 1953).

6

Norman Rufus Colin Cohn, Warrant for Genocide; the Myth of the Jewish World-Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion (New York: Harper & Row, 1967).

7

Lewis Chester, et al., The Zinoviev Letter
(Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1968).

8

John L. Spivak, A Man in his Time (New York: *Horizon Press, 196*

9

Allen Weinstein, "The Alger Hiss Case Revisited,"
The American Scholar, XLI (Winter, 1971-72), pp. 121-132.

10

Each alleged fact linking Oswald to the actual shooting of the president used by the Warren Commission is held to be false. These include the entire sequence of events: that he carried a rifle into the building, that the rifle discovered functioned, that Oswald was on the sixth floor at the time of the shooting, that the shot fired from the building came from the east window of the building, and so forth.

11

Raymond Marcus, The Bastard Bullet. A Search for Legitimacy for Commission Exhibit 399 (Los Angeles: Rendell Publications, 1966). CE 399, the bullet the Warren Commission alleges was fired from behind the president, entered the back of his neck, traⁿsited the neck, entered Governor Connally's body causing five wounds, smashing two bones, and mysteriously appeared in the hospital in pristine shape.

12

Nicolas Halasz, Captain Dreyfus. The Story of a Mass Hysteria (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1955).

13

Ludwell H. Johnson, "Lincoln and Equal Rights: the Authenticity of the Wadworth Letter," Journal of Southern History, XXXII (Spring, 1966), pp. 258-266; Ludwell H. Johnson, "Lincoln and Equal Rights: a Reply," Civil War History, XIII (March, 1967), pp. 66-73.

14

Three witnesses were on the stairs which Oswald allegedly used to descend from the sixth floor. Two were not called to testify; Virginia Adams did give a statement, but it was ignored. See Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1964), VI, p. 392.

15

Warren I. Cohen, The American Revisionists: the Lessons of Intervention in World War I (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1967); interviews with Professor Fred Albert Shannon, Urbana, Illinois, 1961; Bessie Louise Pierce, Public Opinion and the Teaching of History (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1926).

16

Harry Elmer Barnes, ed., Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace; a Critical Examination of the Foreign Policy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and its Aftermath (New York: Greenwood Press, 1969 edition).

17

Issac Deutscher, Stalin. A Political Biography (New York: Vintage Books, 1960).

18

Fred A. Shannon, America's Economic Growth (New York: Macmillan, 1951).

19

Allen W. Trelease, White Terror: the Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction (New York: Harper & Row, 1971).

20

Harry Harrison Kroll, Riders in the Night (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1965).

21

Joan M. Jensen, The Price of Vigilance (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1968).

22

Arrel Gibson, The Kickapoo (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1968).

23

Report of the Joint Select Committee, appointed to investigate into alleged frauds and corruption in the disposition of the land grant by the Legislature of 1856, and for other purposes (Madison: Calkins & Webb, 1858).

24

John C. Adams papers, Wisconsin State Historical Society.

25

Richard N. Current, Lincoln and the First Shot (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1963).

26

Almont Lindsey, The Pullman Strike: the Story of a Unique Experiment and of a Great Labor Upheaval (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1964 edition).

27

Robert K. Murray, Red Scare: a Study in National Hysteria, 1919-1920 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1955).

28

Gabriel Kolko, The Politics of War, 1943-1945 (New York: Random House, 1969), is representative of many recent volumes on the subject both here in the United States and in Europe.

29

The criticism of relativity is voluminous and can be approached from several systems of thought, e.g. evolution, Christianity, and determinism. These are all unsatisfactory for various reasons ; the philosophical criticism is, perhaps, best. Its clearest statement is Elijah Jordan, Forms of Individuality; An Inquiry into the Grounds of Order in Human Relations (Indianapolis: Charles W. Laut, 1927). One does not

embrace totalitarianism or absolutism by rejecting relativism.